

New York already contributes about \$17 billion more in taxes to Washington than it gets back.

The Economic Growth and Tax Relief Act of 2001 will cut that deficit by \$9.7 billion. As a former town supervisor, I know firsthand how reasonable tax relief can help families and local economies create thousands of new jobs, provide essential services, and still maintain a multimillion dollar annual surplus. The hard-working, middle-class families of Long Island's First Congressional District and throughout our Nation should have their tax dollars back. We have accomplished this while we protected and locked away Social Security and Medicare funds and reduced our national debt by a historic rate.

IRRESPONSIBLE TAX CUT MEANS SERIOUS REPERCUSSIONS FOR ESSENTIAL GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, here we go again, another round of voodoo economics, and another huge tax cut for the rich.

Passing this \$2 trillion tax cut before voting on the budget is irresponsible and will jeopardize the future of Social Security, Medicare, and public education. This bill is like taking a vacation before you pay your rent and utility bills.

I encourage my colleagues to consider the terrible situation in my home State of Florida where massive tax breaks for the rich have come at the expense of much-needed services for the poor, year after year after year. Yesterday, Florida Governor Jeb Bush called for even more tax breaks for the rich while continuing to overlook the most pressing issues facing Florida residents, for example, a \$1 billion hole in the Medicaid program that funds health services for poor pregnant women, children, the elderly, and the disabled; a school crisis that includes teacher retention problems and budget cuts that eliminate some of the most innovative teaching programs; a senior population whose health care is at risk because they cannot afford to pay for their prescription drugs; and the Nation's oldest veterans' population with nowhere to bury them with the dignity they deserve.

Mr. Speaker, mark my words. The rest of the country will face the same problems we have in Florida if President Bush's tax cut becomes a reality. The Bush tax cut is like the Reagan cuts that devastated our economy with huge debts, skyrocketing unemployment, and high interest rates. We have been down this road before, and it took us 20 years to get out of this mess that the Reagan tax cuts put us in.

One of the immediate effects of his plan was the homeless problem. By cutting housing and community-based programs, Reagan eliminated the most critical programs for the people at the bottom of the economic ladder. As a result, this country witnessed record numbers of homeless people, and our deficit grew by leaps and bounds. We will see the same problem with health care and senior programs if these tax cuts are allowed.

My constituents do not deserve to relive this nightmare again. I would like to remind my Republican colleagues that the American people did not vote for the Bush plan.

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We would not be in this mess if the coup had not taken place in Florida. There is no mandate for the Bush plan; I can tell my colleagues coming from Duval County, where 27,000 votes were thrown out, 16,000 of them African Americans, 16,000 African Americans, 27,000 votes thrown out.

The sad thing is that this election is not about a few hundred votes. It is about thousands of votes, thousands of votes that were thrown out in the State of Florida. We must commit ourselves that this will never happen again in this history of this country. The last time it happened was in 1877, and Florida was involved in that coup also.

Mr. Speaker, a lot of people think it does not matter what party is in charge. Clearly, today it is an example of it does matter what party is in charge. The parties are not all the same. Some look out for the wealthy and the others look out for the working people and the poor people of this country.

I am happy to be a party of that party, that cares about Medicaid and education and looks at it as investing in our future and not doing away with the surplus, that we take most of it out of health care, health care.

I tell my colleagues it is not a free ride in this country, and the American people, we will fight this fight again and we will welcome President Bush Monday when he comes to Florida.

INTERNATIONAL FAMILY PLANNING AND HIV/AIDS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PENCE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today is International Women's Day. Women of the world have very little to celebrate. Tragically, the new President withdrew family planning counseling across the developing world, where family planning had begun to have a structural effect on life for men, women and children.

The average family size where people have had access to family planning assistance has been reduced in a very short period of time from six to four. Now, we see the closing of clinics.

Mr. Speaker, what troubles me most this evening is the effect on the spread of AIDS. Just this week, we learned that India is about to experience the same tragedy that has overtaken Africa, as AIDS spreads like wildfire across the Indian continent.

When we in this country think of AIDS, we think of it as a male disease, but worldwide, 50 percent of those or almost 50 percent of those with AIDS are women. Seven percent of the people with AIDS are in sub-Saharan Africa. Ninety-five percent of the AIDS worldwide are orphans. Eighty percent of women with AIDS worldwide are in sub-Saharan Africa.

If this epidemic moves, as it now seems to be, to India, what we will be seeing is the engulfing of continents where most of the world's people live with AIDS. How do we stop that? We know that the drugs, the expensive drugs, are simply not going to millions upon millions of poor people.

Family planning is a preventive low cost way, not only of planning family size with all of the effects that has on development, but it is a way to stop the spread of this deadly disease. Integration of AIDS treatment and detection and prevention with family planning is a critical way to go at this epidemic.

In the same place, counseling for family planning, counseling about AIDS prevention can be the most essential one-stop health service in the world today. It eases significant costs.

And perhaps most poignantly, we can begin to prevent mother-to-child transmission of AIDS, the most tragic consequence of this epidemic.

Did we know that girls, little girls, are far more likely to become infected than little boys? It is probably because it is far easier to take advantage of little girls.

Preventing AIDS and controlling childbirth must take place in the same orbit and in the same place. We, of course, have made that much more difficult at a time when we should be embracing ways to conquer the AIDS epidemic.

On this International Women's Day, I call upon the administration to look for ways to increase both AIDS funding and family counseling. Family planning counseling, and certainly the availability of contraceptives, the way we have thought necessary in this country, the double standard that we have used to make contraceptives available here but deny it in developing countries is having tragic effects well beyond anything we imagined.

This evening I cannot stand here and say that there is an answer to the world spread of AIDS. I can say that

this country has within its grasp the tools to keep this epidemic from completely overwhelming developing countries.

Mr. Speaker, if we do nothing else this International Women's Day, I ask that we think about women in the Third World who have been abandoned by our contraceptive counseling policy, and I think we, at best, have an obligation to think seriously about how to make our way back to the inroads we were beginning to make.

RADIO FREE SPEECH IS BEING DENIED IN NEW YORK CITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. OWENS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, tyrants in control of totalitarian countries like China, Serbia and Iraq consider control of the airwaves an absolute necessity. They ruthlessly enforce censorship of a kind few of us can imagine in America.

Last Monday, however, I had the weird and frightening experience of being gagged by a radio station manager in my own home City of New York. It started with a routine request that I call in for a phone interview on a show hosted on Radio Station WBAI by Ken Nash which focuses on union and labor news and features.

The name of the show which commences at 2 p.m. was Building Bridges. As the ranking member on the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, I welcome the chance to appear on shows related to working families or unions.

It is important to note that Radio Station WBAI is a nonprofit station. It runs primarily on contributions solicited from its mass of diverse listeners. Since last December, this station has experienced considerable turmoil internally and long-term producers and hosts have been fired or locked out of the station.

Like many New Yorkers, I am concerned about the present and future of this vital outlet for free speech on the radio. Without knowing all of the specific tensions and confrontations within the station, I have indicated my interests in working towards the resolution of the problems hampering the continuation of the unique and robust programming of WBAI.

It is important to note that I am presently seeking ways to get more avenues opened for radio free speech in my city in general.

Five low-powered Haitian stations have been shut down. The survival of WBAI is vital for the entire movement seeking more access to the airwaves. The bully monopolies of commercial radio provide the continuing roadblocks to these stations. My knowledge of the reputation of certain recent appointments to the board of Pacifica Network, which is the parent nonprofit

institution responsible for WBAI, leads me to conclude that there is a clear and immediate danger that attempts will be made to sell WBAI to a commercial owner. Such a sale would mean the loss of a vital voice for working families in New York City.

My beliefs and point of view are considered heresy by Station Manager Utrice Leid. Without explanation or apology, she shut down the microphones and proclaimed that she had to intervene because it was her job to allow only the truth over the airwaves.

The following is a summary of the statement I would have made had I not been censored and shut off:

The situation at WBAI has implications far beyond this one station. Freedom of speech over the airwaves via radio, broadcast television and cable television is presently quite limited for the majority of Americans, and they are not aware of this. We have a problem of great magnitude that is not being appropriately addressed. The WBAI arrangement and structure offered one model to be emulated. As a listener supported station with a very diverse set of programs, procedures and guests, WBAI represents the optimum use of radio in the service of ordinary people.

When I attended the memorial service of the late Samori Marksman, who is a former WBAI station manager, last year in the great hall of St. John's Cathedral, I saw at that funeral a more diverse assembly than I have seen anywhere in New York City. Folks from all races, religions, income levels, and political persuasions were there. There were intellectual snobs who support programs broadcasting esoteric operas mingling with radical, grassroots political activists. Indeed, as a politician, one immediate reaction I experienced as I contemplated all of the diversity and the solidarity was at that funeral I felt that some of the powerful people in powerful places would see WBAI as a threat and seek to destroy it.

Mr. Speaker, WBAI represents radio freedom of speech that does not make profit for anyone. There are those who see profits being made via WBAI and other Pacifica stations. There are others in powerful stations who feel that only commercial stations should exist; or if there are public stations, they should be indirectly controlled by corporate grants and benign corporate advertisements.

Some of the persons who have recently been appointed to the Pacifica Board represent such powerful commercial interests and, in my opinion, WBAI is an endangered station as long as such business predators are on the Pacifica Board. Persons far removed from the original ideals and philosophy of the founders of the Pacifica chain are not likely to promote the original intent of this very well conceived system.

The basic question which must be tested as soon as possible in the courts is who owns a nonprofit entity? Who has a right to sell a nonprofit radio station? Does the original charter or licensing by the FCC permit any group of trustees or directors to treat Pacifica and WBAI as if they were commercial entities?

While the Pacifica turmoil is raging, I strongly urge WBAI to seek to preserve its freedom by exploring the necessary steps to become independent of Pacifica. As a nonprofit entity, WBAI should use the university structure as a model. It should elect the board of trustees through a voting process utilizing its contributors and supporters as the voters. The trustees should be responsible for basic business operations while the producers and staff should be given a role similar to the faculty of a university. Basic freedom similar to academic freedom and tenure should be conferred upon the long-standing producers and long-term paid and unpaid staff participants.

We want to preserve WBAI in New York City.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, as the cochair of the Congressional Caucus on Women's Issues, I am proud to rise today to acknowledge International Women's Day.

This day is a symbolic recognition of the great contributions that women around the world make everyday in society as mothers, teachers, farmers, doctors, maids, engineers, accountants, social workers, lawyers and activists. It is also a time to review the progress of women in the public arena and the workplace, as well as their struggle for equal status and full participation in society, justice and peace.

International Women's Day is celebrated in the United States, United Nations and in many countries throughout the world. International Women's Day was declared in August 1910 at a meeting in Copenhagen. The Women's Socialist International Organization decided to commemorate March 8 as Women's International Day due to the strikes by hundreds of women workers in garment and textile factories in New York. The strike was against low wages, 12-hour workdays and inhumane working conditions.

In 1975, during International Women's Year, the United Nations began celebrating March 8 as International Women's Day. Two years later, in December 1977, the General Assembly adopted a resolution proclaiming a United Nations Day for Women's Rights and International Peace to be